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**In the Claims**

Please amend the claims by replacing all prior versions, and listings, of claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121 as follows:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the column is a N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS-)-activated highly cross linked 4% agarose column.

9. (Previously presented) A method of treating a subject having systemic lupus erythematosus comprising extracorporeal treatment of plasma from the subject by affinity absorption column chromatography, wherein the column comprises a peptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 1 and returning plasma so treated to the patient.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the peptide is coupled to the column using a coupling buffer.

11. (New) A method of treating a subject having systemic lupus erythematosus comprising extracorporeal treatment of plasma from the subject by affinity absorption column chromatography, wherein the column consists essentially of a peptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 1 and returning plasma so treated to the patient.

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12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the peptide is coupled to the column using a coupling buffer.
13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the column is a N-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS-)-activated highly cross linked 4% agarose column.
14. (New) A method of treating a subject having systemic lupus erythematosus comprising inducing binding of the subject's anti-R38 antibodies to a peptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 1.